

# OPC Bulletin

## OPC Backs Charter For Free Press

When a major international body votes whether to endorse a press freedom charter later this spring, it will find the OPC among the advocates.

The charter, which mandates unfettered and independent news media, was drawn up by the World Press Freedom Committee after a 1987 meeting with journalists from 34 countries. In May, WPFC will present the document to the 51-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at a CSCE follow-up meeting to the Helsinki Human Rights Accords.

CSCE endorsement of the charter would be felt most strongly in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, said WPFC Executive Director Dana Bullen. Unless CSCE guides these fledgling democracies as they write new constitutions and press laws, Bullen said, their news media could remain under state control.

The OPC Board of Governors unanimously approved the charter in February after it won support from the club's Freedom of the Press Committee, OPC President H. L. Stevenson said.

"We don't often lend our name to general causes," said committee chairman Norman Schorr. "We try to use the name of the OPC cautiously and judiciously." In this case, he said, the provisions squared with the OPC charter.

One charter provision applies specifically to foreign correspondents. It

urges the opening of national borders to journalists and prompt approval of press credentials. "Foreign journalists should be allowed to travel freely within a country and have access to both official and unofficial sources," it says.

"We are very appreciative to Stevenson and Schorr and other members of the board for their support," said WPFC's Bullen. "It will help us try to move the charter forward in Helsinki."

## Panelists Explore The New Germany

A provocative panel April 16 will explore Germany's role in the 1990s in the European Community, Eastern Europe, and the world.

Panelists include Eberhard Koelsch, deputy consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York; Amity Shlaes, deputy features editor for *The Wall Street Journal* editorial page; and Gregory Treverton, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m. at 3 W. 51st Street.

Koelsch served in the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn as Deputy Director for the U.S. and the Strategic Research Unit.

Author of *Germany: The Empire Within*, Shlaes has been with the *Journal* since 1983, including five years overseas with the paper's European edition.

Treverton directs the Europe-America Project and the Pew Project on America's Task in a Changed World for the Council on Foreign Relations.

## Candidates Named For May Election

Nominations for OPC officers and for eight active and two associate governors have been made by the nominating committee, with balloting to be conducted in May, the Board of Governors reported.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible members in early May and biographies of the candidates will be published in the May issue of the *OPC Bulletin*.

Additional nominations may be made by petition under OPC bylaws. Petitions must be signed by at least 40 eligible members, active or associate, depending on the nominee's classification. Each petition must be delivered in person to the club secretary or postmarked no later than April 20.

The nominating committee submitted the following nominations to the Board of Governors:

President: Larry Smith.

Vice President (three vacancies): Allan Dodds Frank, William Holstein, and Norman Schorr.

Secretary: Marjorie Longley and Charles Schreiber.

Treasurer: Raymond Price.

Active Governors (eight vacancies): Jean Baer, Whitman Bassow, Charles Brophy, George Burns, Janice Castro, Walter Diamond, Ralph Gardner, R. Edward Jackson, Jacqueline Leo, Elmer Lower, Andrew Nibley, Roy Rowan, and Jacqueline Simon.

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## WHEN IN ROME

### AP BUREAU CHIEF WINS ITALIAN PRIZE

OPCer Dennis Redmont, Rome bureau chief for The Associated Press, recently won Italy's Solamare prize for lifetime achievement in journalism. The prize is sponsored by Italy's Ministry of Culture.

## BOOK PUBLISHING

### OPCERS PICKED TO EDIT BOOKS

OPCer Dick Rowson of Washington, D.C., a senior publishing executive, has been named director of publishing for the Woodrow Wilson Center Press. Rowson, who was founding director of The American University Press, will continue there as publishing consultant and acquisitions editor.

OPC member and author Ralph Lee Smith of Reston, Va., has been selected to edit a series of books to be published by Scarecrow Press, a division of Grolier. Smith's own book, *Dulcimers, Dulcimer*

*Makers, and Dulcimer Music of the Southern Appalachians*, will appear as a volume in the series.

Scarecrow is also publisher of Ralph Gardner's recent book, *Writers Talk to Ralph D. Gardner*.

## ASIA, INC.

### OPCER LAUNCHES BUSINESS MAG

Anne and Tony Paul have returned to Hong Kong, where Tony is now setting up staff for a new magazine, *Asia, Inc.*, scheduled to start publication in July.

Formerly based in Hong Kong as a correspondent for *Reader's Digest*, Tony was editor-in-chief and consulting editor of *Business Tokyo* in New York City from 1989 to 1991.

## NO CITY SLICKER

### THIS NEW YORKER CALLS S.W. HOME

In December, Jack and Joy Casserly moved back home to Phoenix, Ariz., from New York City, where Jack had been writing editorials and columns for Hearst Newspapers.

Jack plans to retire

in April after a long career as a foreign correspondent in Asia and Europe for International News Service, CBS, ABC, and Hearst Headline Service. His latest book, *The Hearsts: Father and Son*, was published last September and reviewed in the October issue of the *OPC Bulletin*.

## FEATURES SYNDICATE

### OPCER MARKETS FEATURES ABROAD

OPCer Henry Hartzenbusch has been appointed director of international marketing for Universal Press Syndicate, a feature service that distributes comic strips and columns by Garry Trudeau, Pat Oliphant, Tom Toles, Abigail Van Buren, Erma Bombeck, James J. Kilpatrick, and William F. Buckley Jr.

Hartzenbusch, a veteran foreign correspondent and news executive for the Associated Press and Voice of America, will be based in Washington, D.C. With the A.P., he worked in New York, Manila, Tokyo, Frankfurt, and Hong Kong.

## GOLDEN YEARS

### OPCER MARKS 50-YEAR MARRIAGE

Arthur Milton, a longtime OPC member, officer, and publisher of *Dateline* magazine from 1958 through 1976, and his wife, Marie, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 5.

Art worked for the *New York Daily Mirror*, the *Long Island Press*, and the *Long Island Star Journal*. After joining the club in 1955, he went on to be elected to the Board of Governors numerous times and appointed to the OPC Foundation.

Art and Marie now live in Sun City West, Arizona.

## GREENER PASTURES

### ENVIRONMENTAL BEAT HAS OPENING

New member Bill D'Alessandro, executive editor of Victor House News, says there are openings on his publication, which covers environmental issues. Contact Bill at P.O. Box 464, Amherst, N.H. 03031; phone 603-672-5811.

*Share your activities.*

**Overseas members:** Al Kaff, Cornell Univ. News Service, 840 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.  
**Domestic members:** Ralph Gardner, OPC, Suite 2116, 310 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

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# New Clubs Welcome OPCers

Overseas Press Club members from Chicago to Istanbul to Vilnius can avail themselves of local press club facilities under new reciprocal arrangements.

## On The Baltic Beat

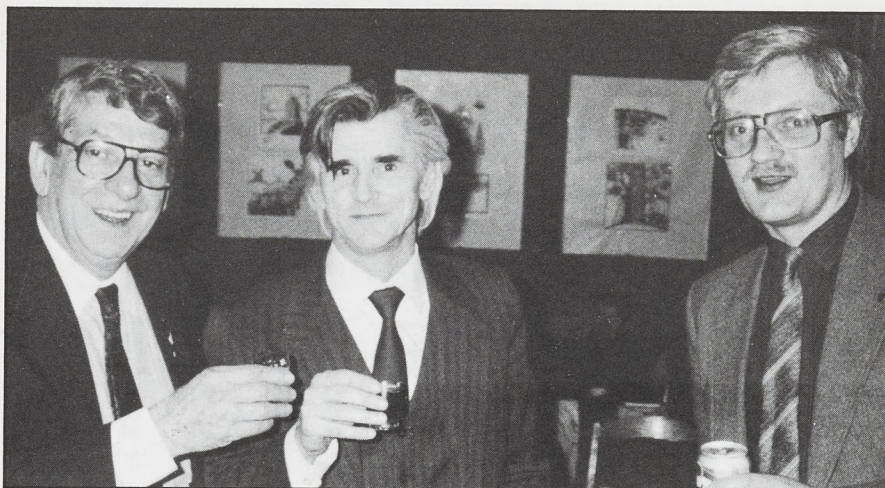
An old mansion near the heart of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius houses the press club operated by the Lithuanian Journalists Union (LJU).

During a visit in late February with a team from the International Media Fund, OPC President H.L. Stevenson agreed to establish reciprocal relations with the fledgling organization.

A restaurant and bar is located on the first floor of the building, which was the center of a skirmish earlier between the union and President Vytautas Landsbergis.

Landsbergis, angered by a one-week strike in December by journalists protesting a state plan to tax independent newspapers, offered to turn the mansion over to the Italian Government for use as an embassy. After a strong protest from the International Federation of Journalists, Landsbergis backed down, and the union retains control of the building under a lease until 1995. The union hopes to purchase the building.

Stevenson reported that the club has facsimile and telex facilities, which the LJU said would be available to visiting journalists. Visitors can obtain further information on hours by telephoning 611-790.



During a February visit to Vilnius, Lithuania, OPC President H.L. Stevenson, left, lifts a toast with Rimgaudas Eilunavicius, center, and Villus Kavaliauskas, right, of the Lithuanian Journalists Union. LJU, which operates a restaurant and bar, agreed to reciprocal relations with the OPC.

Photo by Bill Sheehan

"We welcome our American friends," said LJU deputy chairman Villus Kavaliauskas, a former Moscow News correspondent in New York.

Lithuania, along with Estonia and Latvia, declared independence from Soviet Union last August during the aborted coup that led to the breakup of the U.S.S.R.

## In The Windy City

Chicago has a new press club, and it's international. The International Press Club of Chicago made its debut at a gala party last fall.

The inauguration party last fall drew a crowd of about 200 people, nearly half of whom became charter members within the first two weeks.

Members have been issued bright red international press cards printed in 13 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Urdu.

Currently, IPCC headquarters are at the Forum Hotel, 505 North Michigan Avenue. The club also shares kitchen and bar staff with the 59 West Club and Restaurant, located in Chicago's River North area. Luncheon service begins at 11:30 a.m. each weekday.

Membership benefits include a special menu at reduced prices; marked-down beverages; discounted admission to IPCC programs; and reciprocal

memberships with other press clubs worldwide.

Chicago has not had a press club since the old Chicago Press Club, located in the Wrigley Building, closed in January 1987.

OPC members who visit the Windy City can call 312-787-2679 for information on programs and dining. OPC has recognized the new club and begun negotiating for official reciprocity.

## By The Bosphorus

From Istanbul comes word of the establishment of an International Press Center in the Sepetciler Kasri, a centrally located 17th century palace with a view of the Bosphorus and its famed harbor.

The center was founded by the Foreign Press Association of Turkey (FPA), which organizes newsmaker events in the center for its nearly 200 members and for visiting journalists. Two restaurants and bars and a seaside coffee house are located within the press center, as well as a PTT office with phones, telex, and facsimile.

Metin Demirsar, a member of the FPA executive committee, has offered to help any OPC members who visit Istanbul with "any problems they encounter." The club telephone number is 90-1-5113626.

Stevenson said the OPC is seeking to negotiate a formal reciprocity agreement with its Istanbul counterpart.



## The New Germany

**Thursday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. How will a united Germany fit into the new world order? Details, p. 1.** No charge. Reservations required. 212-983-4655.

**Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 p.m. Board of Governors.**

**Wednesday, May 6, 6 p.m. Black-tie Awards Dinner.** Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York. Terry Anderson will be guest of honor. Mike Wallace presents awards. Tickets: members and one guest, \$95 each; others, \$200. Reserve early. 212-983-4655.

**Saturday, May 16, 2 p.m. "Death and the Maiden."** A limited number of tickets to the new play by Chile's Ariel Dorfman are available for \$60 each from the Women's National Republican Club. 212-582-5454.

All programs and meetings held at 3 W. 51st St. unless indicated otherwise. For reservations for lodging or restaurants, phone 212-582-5454.

## Candidates

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Associate Governors (two vacancies): Elinor Griest, John Polich, and Cindy Reagan.

Members of the nominating committee were John Corporon, chairman, Al Kaff, vice chairman, Myrna Blyth, George Bookman, Fran Carpentier, and Anita Diamant.

## Pub Lunch Is Back For Now

The mezzanine restaurant and bar at 3 W. 51st Street resumed serving lunch for a two-month trial period on April 1.

The Women's National Republican Club, which runs the facility, had curtailed the restaurant's hours in March, saying too few patrons dined there to keep it open at midday.

Leaders of the OPC and other clubs that use the building immediately protested the decision and convinced the women's club to reconsider.

"We agreed to urge all OPCers, visitors, and locals alike to make more frequent use of the pub for lunch," said OPC President H.L. Stevenson, who joined vice president Larry Smith and board member Norman Schorr at the meeting with WNRC officials.

If OPC patronage does not increase over the next two months, Stevenson said, the women's club will again close the pub, leaving lunchtime diners to use the club's larger, formal dining room.

## Media Need Aid In Africa

Journalists in Africa and Central and Eastern Europe are in the forefront of movements to implant more democratic governance, but many face monumental obstacles and frustrations.

This is especially true in Africa, which is receiving much less attention than Eastern Europe, despite remarkably similar problems. More political change has occurred in Africa in the past year than at any time since the 1960s, and the media can take much of the credit for this. But there are great fears that these heady days will be short-lived unless the free-minded press receives substantial recognition and support from abroad.

Newsprint shortages, distribution blockages, meager revenue sources, ill-prepared journalists, poorly equipped plants, continuing political coercion and threats of new government crackdowns are afflictions common to media in most of Africa, as well as in the new democracies of Europe. — *George A. Krimsky*

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